

request should describe the basis for the claim and state the amount sought. The request should also include:

- (i) The name, address, telephone number, and facsimile machine number, if available, of the claimant;
- (ii) The name, address, telephone number, and facsimile machine number, if available, of the agency employee who denied the claim;
- (iii) A copy of the denial of the claim; and
- (iv) Any other information which the claimant believes the Board should consider.

(2) *Claim forwarded by agency on behalf of claimant.* If an agency has denied a claim for travel or relocation expenses, it may, at the claimant's request, forward the claim to the Board. The agency shall include the information required by § 6104.3.

(b) *Notice of docketing.* A request for review will be docketed by the Office of the Clerk of the Board, and a written notice of docketing will be sent promptly to the claimant and the agency contact. The notice of docketing will identify the judge to whom the claim has been assigned.

(c) *Service of copy.* The claimant shall send to the agency employee identified in paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of this section copies of all material provided to the Board. If an agency forwarded a claim to the Board, it shall, at the same time, send to the claimant a copy of all material sent to the Board.

#### **§ 6104.3 Response to claim [Rule 403].**

(a) When a claim has been filed with the Board by a claimant, within 30 calendar days after docketing by the Board, the agency shall submit to the Board:

- (1) A simple, concise, and direct statement of its response to the claim;
- (2) Citations to applicable statutes, regulations, and cases; and
- (3) Any additional information deemed necessary to the Board's review of the claim.

(b) A copy of these submissions shall also be sent to the claimant.

#### **§ 6104.4 Reply to agency response [Rule 404].**

If the claimant wishes to reply to the agency response, it must inform the Board within 10 calendar days after receiving the response. If the claim has been forwarded by the agency, the claimant shall have 10 calendar days from the time the claim is docketed by the Board to request the opportunity to reply. The judge will establish the time frame for submission of the reply.

#### **§ 6104.5 Proceedings [Rule 405].**

(a) *Conferences.* The judge will not engage in ex parte communications involving the underlying facts or merits of the claim. The judge may hold a conference with the claimant and the agency contact, at any time, for any purpose. The judge may provide the participants a memorandum reflecting the results of a conference.

(b) *Additional submissions.* The judge may require the submission of additional information at any time.

#### **§ 6104.6 Decisions [Rule 406].**

The judge will issue a written decision based upon the record, which includes submissions by the claimant and the agency, and information provided during conferences.

#### **§ 6104.7 Reconsideration of Board decision [Rule 407].**

(a) A request for reconsideration may be made by the claimant or the agency. Such requests must be received by the Board within 15 calendar days after the date the decision was issued. The request for reconsideration should state the reasons why the Board should consider the request.

(b) Requests for reconsideration are not favored. Mere disagreement with a decision or re-argument of points already made are not sufficient grounds for reconsidering the decision.

#### **§ 6104.8 Payment of successful claims [Rule 408].**

The agency shall pay amounts the Board determines are due the claimant.

Dated: July 18, 1996.

Stephen M. Daniels,  
Chairman, GSA Board of Contract Appeals.  
[FR Doc. 96-18655 Filed 7-25-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-AL-M

### **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

#### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

#### **50 CFR Part 678**

[I.D. 071596G]

#### **Atlantic Shark Fisheries; Quota Adjustment**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Quota adjustment.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces that the catch of large coastal sharks in the

Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico was 1,402 metric tons (mt) during the first semiannual 1996 season. Because of the overharvest of this category quota, the second semiannual 1996 quota is adjusted accordingly.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 16, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** C. Michael Bailey; 301-713-2347; Mark Murray-Brown; 508-281-9260; or John M. Ward; 813-570-5335.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico shark fisheries are managed by NMFS according to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Sharks prepared by NMFS under authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*). Fishing by U.S. vessels is governed by regulations implementing the FMP at 50 CFR part 678.

Section 678.24(b) of the regulations provides for two semi-annual quotas of 1,285 mt of large coastal sharks to be harvested from Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico waters by commercial fishermen. The first semiannual quota was available for harvest from January 1 through June 30, 1996.

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, is authorized under § 678.23(c) to adjust the semiannual quota to reflect actual catches during the preceding semiannual period.

With this action NMFS announces the size of the quota of Atlantic large coastal sharks group during the second semiannual 1996 quota period. Final data indicate that the catch from January through May 17, 1996, of large coastal shark species totaled 1,402 mt, which is 117 mt more than the established quota. Therefore, the adjusted quota for large coastal shark species for the second 1996 semiannual period is decreased from 1,285 mt to 1,168 mt. The adjusted quota of 1,168 mt is available for the period July 1 through December 31, 1996.

#### **Classification**

This rule is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

Dated: July 16, 1996.

Richard H. Schaefer,  
Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-19048 Filed 7-23-96; 3:59 pm]

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